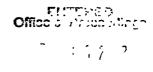






October 1, 2012



## **BY HAND DELIVERY**

Cynthia T. Brown Chief, Section of Administration Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board 395 E. Street, SW Washington, DC 20423

Re: <u>Docket No. AB-1097</u>, <u>Pickens Railway Company – Abandonment in</u>

Pickens County, South Carolina

Dear Ms. Brown:

On June 18, 2012, we sent an initial notice regarding the proposed abandonment in the above-referenced proceeding to the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service at the following address:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Mailstop: 1113 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-1113.

Mailstop 1113 is the environmental sciences research and development staff of the Forest Service. On August 17, 2012, we sent a copy of the Environmental and Historic Report (the "Report") to the same address. On September 28, 2012, the package containing the Environmental Report (but not the initial notice) was returned to us as undeliverable.



Cynthia T. Brown - 2 - October 1, 2012

We have emailed a copy of the Environmental and Historic Report and the related transmittal letter to Ms. Valerie Lewis Murphy, a staff assistant in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service. We have requested that Ms. Lewis Murphy determine the appropriate person to review the Report, and forward the Report to that person. In our email to Ms. Lewis Murphy, we also noted the time-sensitive nature of this matter. Attached to this letter is a copy of that email (without attachments), which contains additional information.

Enclosed are 11 copies of this letter. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by datestamping the enclosed acknowledgment copy and returning it to our messenger.

Very truly yours

Rose-Michele Nardi

**Enclosures** 

## Lynnette Tellis

From: Rose Michele Nardi

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 12:34 PM

To: 'vlewismurphy@fs.fed.us'

Subject: Rail Line Abandonment - Per our conversation this morning

Attachments: Transmittal.pdf; ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT\_20121001110903.pdf; Federal Register.pdf

Ms. Lewis Murphy,

Thank you for talking with me this morning. Below is specific information regarding the rail line abandonment.

Pickens Railway Company ("PICK") has filed for authority to abandon a rail line in Pickens County, South Carolina. We are representing PICK in this matter. As part of the abandonment approval process, PICK has developed an environmental and historic report based, in part, on comments from various governmental agencies.

We previously sent your agency (i) a letter, dated June 18, 2012, which advised the agency of the proposed abandonment, and invited the agency to provide PICK with any information or comments to include in the environmental and historic report regarding the abandonment, and (ii) an environmental and historic report (and the related transmittal letter)(the "Report"), dated August 17, 2012, regarding the abandonment. Unfortunately, we appear to have mistakenly sent the letter and the Report to the wrong address, as the Report was returned to us as undeliverable on September 28, 2012. (The Report and the letter had been sent to the same address.)

A copy of the Report is attached to this email. Per our phone call earlier today, please determine the appropriate person in your office to review the Report. Once that determination has been made, please forward the attached Report to that person, so the Surface Transportation Board will have the opportunity to consider any comments your agency may have regarding the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the proposed abandonment. (We also spoke today with someone in the Deputy Chief's Office for Research, who recommended that we send the Report to Bob Cunningham, Assistant Director for Land. If you concur that this is the appropriate person to receive the Report, please forward the Report to Mr. Cunningham.)

Please note that the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") will issue an environmental assessment on October 2, 2012, and comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the assessment becomes available to the public. Accordingly, please turn you attention to this matter as soon as possible. (Also attached is a copy of the STB's notice regarding the proposed abandonment that was published in the Federal Register on September 27, 2012. This notice sets forth important deadlines in this proceeding.)

We greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Regards,

Rose-Michele Nardi Weiner Brodsky Sidman Kider PC 1300 Nineteenth Street NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036-1609

Ph: 202.628.2000 Fax. 202.628.2011

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